

In addition, Life Members (past honorees with more than 50 years' service) will also be on hand for the event. They include: Florian Chmurzynski, Robert Connors, Frederick Diring, Ronald Dubois, Norman Gast, Edward Jarrot, Kenneth Kreger, Albert Martin, Guy Merritt, James Mooney, Robert Ohlenschlager, and Thomas Trotta.

The inscription at New York City's James Farley Post Office reads, "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds." I am pleased to join with Branch 3 of the National Association of Letter Carriers to honor these fine public servants, and to wish to them good luck and Godspeed in the months and years to come.

HONORING U.S. ARMY SERGEANT  
GARRICK L. EPPINGER, JR.'S  
SERVICE IN AFGHANISTAN

**HON. REID J. RIBBLE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2011*

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life and sacrifice of Sergeant Garrick L. Eppinger, Jr. A resident of Appleton, Wisconsin, Sergeant Eppinger died while serving our country in the Parwan Province of Afghanistan. He was assigned to the 395th Ordnance Company, 687th Combat Sustainment Support Brigade, 646th Regional Support Group, 310th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, U.S. Army Reserve, Wausau, Wisconsin. Garrick Eppinger, Jr. died protecting the freedoms we take for granted every day. His heroic sacrifice will not soon be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Eppinger embodied the best qualities of a true American soldier. He served this country with honor and exhibited profound bravery and selflessness during his three overseas deployments. Sergeant Eppinger was a loving son, a devoted father and now he will forever be known as an American hero. He is remembered by friends and family as a man with a courageous and strong spirit who earned the unwavering respect of his peers. Although the loss of Sergeant Eppinger left a void in the hearts of many, his dedication and exemplary service has made Northeast Wisconsin and his country proud.

It is my honor to commemorate him and I urge my colleagues to join me today in honoring the life of Sergeant Garrick Eppinger, Jr. for the sacrifice he made for the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING THE CRUTCHFIELD  
FAMILY AS THE 2011 OKALOOSA  
COUNTY OUTSTANDING FARM  
FAMILY OF THE YEAR

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2011*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure for me to rise today to recognize the Crutchfield family for being selected as the 2011 Okaloosa County, Florida Outstanding Farm Family of the Year.

Reginald Crutchfield is a fifth generation farmer who truly understands the value of a strong work ethic and good soil, and he instills those values in his family every day. With the help of his wife Regina and his son Phillip, Reggie sows and harvests nearly 500 acres of peanuts, wheat and corn.

Throughout his life, Reggie has epitomized the true meaning of hard work. In 1981, Future Farmers of America (FFA) recognized his dedication to the farming industry and awarded him with the title of FFA Star Farmer. Since that time, Reggie has worked independently as a farmer among other jobs in order to provide for his family. His impressive career includes work as a researcher of beef cattle with the University of Florida and as a golf course superintendent overseeing grass production. In 2008, Reggie successfully battled cancer and went back to work as a full-time farmer, replanting his crops and expanding his business.

Reggie and Regina have raised their children, Jhanna, Phillip, Bailey, and Paige, to respect the land and to be active members of their community. In addition to helping her husband out on the farm throughout their 27 years of marriage, Regina works as a speech pathologist for the Okaloosa County School District. The Crutchfields are members of First United Methodist Church of Crestview and the Okaloosa County Farm Bureau. This outstanding farm family has overcome constant challenges and continues to inspire those around them with their love of the land and their commitment to family.

Mr. Speaker, our great nation was built by farmers and their families. The Okaloosa County Outstanding Farm Family of the Year award is a reflection of the Crutchfield family's tireless work and dedication to family, faith and trade. On behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to offer my congratulations to the Crutchfield family for this great accomplishment. My wife Vicki and I wish them the best for continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD**

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2011*

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, September 15, 2011, I was inadvertently detained on rollcall vote 709. Had I been present to vote, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING MICHAEL FORAN

**HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2011*

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary service of Michael Foran, the 2012 MetLife/NASSP National High School Principal of the Year. A native of Newington, Connecticut, Mr. Foran has worked for 20 years within the New Britain school district and became Principal of New Britain High School in 2006. In this time, he has been instrumental in providing the 2,700 students of New Britain High School with the

foundation they will need to succeed in today's competitive economy.

Among many of his notable initiatives, Mr. Foran's focus on career education led to the start of the New Britain Academy for Health Professions, which helps students prepare for careers in health care. He has also greatly expanded the school's mentoring programs for at-risk students. Despite school budget reductions and layoffs, Foran has sustained and advanced his school's reputation by building a more collaborative work environment between administrators, teachers and ancillary staff. As a result, since 2006, test scores have risen, more students are taking AP courses, and fewer students are dropping out. This can be credited to better instruction due to Foran's excellent leadership attributes, which were essential in awarding him the honor of National Principal of the Year.

The MetLife/NASSP program honors secondary school principals who have arrived at administering distinctive learning opportunities for students. High school and middle school principals from every state in the nation are nominated. From this accomplished pool, 6 finalists are chosen as contenders to be named Principal of the Year. This program recognizes the very pivotal role that principals such as Mr. Foran play in the education system as leaders and role models who excel in maintaining a positive community for both students and teachers.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we can all learn from Mr. Foran's dedication to education and service, and so I ask my colleagues to join me, and the people of Connecticut, in recognizing Michael Foran as the National Principal of the Year.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2011*

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 715, I was attending a meeting that ran long, and therefore, I was unable to vote on rollcall No. 715.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO THE DEFENSE INTEL-  
LIGENCE AGENCY'S 50TH ANNI-  
VERSARY

**HON. ROSCOE G. BARTLETT**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 22, 2011*

Mr. BARTLETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Defense Intelligence Agency on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary.

Created in 1961, DIA is our nation's premier provider of intelligence on foreign military intentions and capabilities. DIA's workforce of over 16,500 military and civilian intelligence professionals conducts all-source analysis, human and technical intelligence collection, counterintelligence and provides secure information technology support worldwide for military commanders, warfighters and policymakers.